

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 17, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

SENATE BILL

No. 1649

Introduced by Senator Alarcon

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Montanez)

February 24, 2006

An act to add Part 5 (commencing with Section 71400) to Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, relating to parks and recreation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1649, as amended, Alarcon. Parks and recreation: Outdoor Environmental Education Program.

Existing law establishes the California Environmental Protection License Plate Fund whose moneys are used for, among other things, environmental education programs. Existing law establishes the Office of Education and Environment in the Integrated Waste Management Board for the purpose of implementing a statewide environmental education program.

This bill would establish the Outdoor Environmental Education Program, to be administered by the ~~Secretary for the Resources Agency~~ *Director of Parks and Recreation*, for the purpose of increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to participate in outdoor activities and educational experiences by awarding grants to formal school programs and informal public education programs. The bill would create the Outdoor Environmental Education Fund in the State Treasury and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, would be used for awarding grants pursuant to the program. The bill would require the Controller to transfer to the fund from the California Environmental License Plate Fund, the amount

appropriated by the Legislature, for each fiscal year for the implementation of the program. The bill would require the ~~secretary~~ *director*, in consultation with the California Environmental Education Interagency Network, to develop program components, including, but not limited to, criteria for awarding grants, and staffing and budget needs. The bill would require the California Environmental Education Interagency Network to serve as an advisor to the ~~secretary~~ *director* in developing the program components. The bill would require the ~~secretary~~ *director* to give priority for funding, where feasible, to outdoor environmental education programs with specified attributes. The bill would require the ~~secretary~~ *director* to submit, by January 1, 2008, to the Governor and the Legislature a report and recommendation for the implementation of the program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) The State of California established the Environmental
- 4 Protection Program in 1970 funded with revenues from the sale
- 5 of environmental license plates. A primary purpose of this
- 6 program is to fund environmental education.
- 7 (b) The California Environmental Education Interagency
- 8 Network (CEEIN) was established in 1993 as a consortium of
- 9 environmental educators representing departments, boards, and
- 10 commissions of the State Department of Education, the
- 11 California Environmental Protection Agency, the Resources
- 12 Agency, and the Department of Food and Agriculture. The
- 13 primary goals of CEEIN are to develop a unified response to the
- 14 environmental education needs of California's educators and
- 15 local governments, and to assist with the statewide educational
- 16 reform movements.
- 17 (c) The Legislature enacted Chapter 663 of the Statutes of
- 18 2003, which established the Outdoor Environmental Education
- 19 Program and required a study on the benefits of outdoor
- 20 environmental education for at-risk youth and underserved
- 21 demographic groups. The study found that the science test scores
- 22 of children who participated in these programs were raised by 27

1 percent, and these children also had improved conflict resolution
2 and problem solving skills, self-esteem, and motivation to learn.
3 This program ended on January 1, 2006.

4 (d) Outdoor education assists with the obesity problems in
5 children.

6 SEC. 2. Part 5 (commencing with Section 71400) is added to
7 Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

8
9 PART 5. OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

10
11 71400. As used in this part, the following terms mean the
12 following:

13 (a) “*Director*” means the *Director of Parks and Recreation*.

14 (b) “*Fund*” means the Outdoor Environmental Education Fund
15 established pursuant to Section 71402.

16 ~~(b)~~

17 (c) “*Program*” means the Outdoor Environmental Education
18 Program established pursuant to Section 71401.

19 ~~(e) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Resources Agency.~~

20 71401. There is hereby established the Outdoor
21 Environmental Education Program in the ~~Resources Agency~~
22 *Department of Parks and Recreation* for the purpose of
23 increasing the ability of underserved and at-risk populations to
24 participate in outdoor activities and educational experiences by
25 awarding grants to formal school programs and informal public
26 education programs.

27 71402. (a) There is hereby established the Outdoor
28 Environmental Education Fund in the State Treasury and, upon
29 appropriation by the Legislature, shall be used for awarding
30 grants to qualified outdoor environmental education programs
31 pursuant to this part.

32 (b) The fund shall be capitalized by a transfer of moneys from
33 the California Environmental License Plate Fund established
34 pursuant to Section 21191 and from donations accepted by the
35 secretary pursuant to Section 71404.

36 (c) The Controller shall transfer from the California
37 Environmental License Plate Fund to the fund the amount
38 appropriated by the Legislature for each fiscal year for the
39 implementation of the program.

40 71403. The ~~secretary~~ *director* shall do all of the following:

1 (a) Administer the program to ensure that priority is given to
2 underserved populations, including both urban and rural areas
3 and low-income communities where participation in an outdoor
4 education program has been limited.

5 (b) (1) Develop the components of the program and fund,
6 including, but not limited to, criteria for awarding grants, and
7 staffing and budget needs.

8 (2) The California Environmental Education Interagency
9 Network (CEEIN) shall serve as advisor to the ~~secretary~~ *director*
10 in developing the program components. The CEEIN may utilize
11 private environmental entities with experience in outdoor
12 education programs to assist in advising the ~~secretary~~ *director*.

13 (3) In developing the criteria for awarding grant moneys, the
14 ~~secretary~~ *director* shall give priority for funding, where feasible,
15 to outdoor environmental education programs that have the
16 following attributes:

17 (A) Serves primarily at-risk youth and underserved
18 demographic groups.

19 (B) Is a partnership between public and private entities.

20 (C) Contributes to healthy lifestyles, including sound nutrition
21 and outdoor exercise.

22 (D) Has a community recycling component.

23 (E) Maximizes the number of participants that can be served.

24 (F) Commits in-kind resources to the outdoor environmental
25 education program.

26 (G) Has a curriculum that fosters stewardship of the
27 environment, and includes, when available, curriculum
28 established pursuant to Chapter 663 of the Statutes of 2003.

29 (H) Includes service learning and community outreach
30 components for the purpose of building partnerships between
31 participants and local communities.

32 (c) Notwithstanding Section 7550.5 of the Government Code,
33 submit, on or before January 1, 2008, a report and
34 recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature on the
35 implementation of the program.

36 71404. The ~~secretary~~ *director* may accept and shall deposit
37 into the fund voluntary private donations made for the support of
38 the program.

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